

William Elijah Benton (WEB)

William Elijah Benton in 1901 we find living in Alexandra Road, Acton where he owned Brent Brick and Lime Works.

In 1906 WEB decided to quarry his own lime and tried to buy land at Saunderton but the sale fell through. He had found a rich seam of lime in Chinnor and purchased 2 fields from local farmers

1908 WEB started building 5 kilns and would travel by train to Chinnor on a Tuesday, staying at Mrs Copus guest house and go home by train Friday afternoons

1923 saw WEB build his house Icknield Hatch and moved his wife and 3 children to Chinnor. The house was 50 yards down the Icknield Way. (The only remains being two old gate posts). He would travel around Chinnor in a horse drawn carriage and later on in a chauffeur driven Daimler. Every Thursday he was driven into Thame to have lunch with his Bank Manager.

In 1939 his son was made Managing Director. Norman was also Captain of the Chinnor Home Guard. With the purchase of rotary kilns the work started producing cement and the name changed to Chinnor Cement and Lime Company Ltd.

WEB died on 13th December 1940 aged 85. Mrs Benton died in 1945 and Icknield Hatch was demolished in 1953 to make way for a new quarry